



The Heron

*Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation
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Volunteers Needed for Annual Fishing Has No Boundaries!

by Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist

For the past three years, Clinton County Conservation has been in cooperation with the Fishing Has No Boundaries Eastern Iowa Chapter. Fishing Has No Boundaries®, Inc. (FHNB) was founded in 1986 in Hayward, Wisconsin. The mission of FHNB is “the belief that through education, training and the use of adaptive angling equipment, everyone is able to share in a dream come true.” It is an organization that allows people with disabilities to spend time fishing, something they may not have an opportunity to do otherwise. Since then, FHNB has grown into a national non-profit organization. It currently has 27 chapters in 13 different states and enables thousands of individuals with disabilities to experience what it is like to catch “the big one!”

On June 4th, FHNB Eastern Iowa Chapter will be hosting their third annual fishing event at Rock Creek Marina & Campground. The Conservation staff have worked along side the chapter’s board members to make this event successful; it is an amazing day filled with making new friends, trying new things and spending time in the outdoors catching fish!

The FHNB Eastern Iowa Chapter held its first event in 2014. That event allowed 30 anglers with a variety of disabilities to participate. Each angler was assigned a volunteer “buddy” that assisted them when necessary and was there to watch them catch their first fish. This buddy system allowed new friendships and bonds to be formed! In addition to the volunteer fishing buddy, we also had 15 boat captains that volunteered their boat, gas and time to take people out on the Mississippi River. These captains were a critical part to the day, some of the anglers had never been on a boat or on the river that they live so close to! We also gathered many other volunteers that assisted on shore with set up, registration, serving breakfast and lunch and clean-up. These volunteers are crucial to the success of the event!



Since the first event, we have grown tremendously with the goal of 60 anglers this June. Amazingly enough, we have already met that goal with a waiting list. Where you come in...we currently have 40 volunteers signed up for the event with the hopes of finding 35 more fishing buddies for the day. We have also increased the number of boat captains this year to 30, and we have 15 currently signed up. We need your help!

The logo on our FHNB brochure states “Most of us think that going fishing is as easy as a walk to the lake... For over 56 million American with disabilities it’s not that simple.” We need people who believe in these words and are willing to spend a day fishing with someone who possibly may have never caught a fish in their life! It’s about providing these anglers with a safe and enjoyable experience that they will remember forever.

As the leader of this organization, Allie McGraw has outlined several goals for this FHNB chapter. The Board ultimately wants the chapter to be a success, but when it comes down to it, this is about the people. Their mission is to provide fishing experiences & opportunities for all anglers with disabilities. They hope to increase public awareness, promote advocacy and awareness of adaptive equipment to assist with having a successful experience. Most importantly they want to build long lasting friendships through participating in FHNB, Inc. Please consider volunteering at this awesome event and being a part of someone’s fishing experience!

If you would like more information about FHNB and the event at Rock Creek or would like to donate, sign up to be a captain or volunteer for the day, please contact Allie McGraw, Board President, at 563-210-4296 or via email at eifhnbinc@gmail.com



The WPA and Clinton County

by Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretative Naturalist

Pioneering a new presentation for groups using Eagle Point Park in Clinton our Environmental Education staff has discovered the Park's interesting past. I personally have many fond memories of the park and my adventures in it. I've been told legends of the Meskwaki Nation worshipping "Stone Face", an outcrop of limestone overlooking the river from the park's bluffs and of a cave large enough for several men and horses used by thieves and counterfeiters named Robbers Cave. The entrance to the cave has settled and is no longer safe to enter. Research has brought us a greater understanding of this jewel of Clinton County.

Steamboat pilot Elijah Buell established Lyons Landing in the Iowa Territory in the 1830's. He operated a ferry bringing settlers across the Mississippi and became one of Iowa's first land owners. In 1888, David and William Joyce the owners of the Clinton and Lyons Railway purchased 88 acres from Buell. They named this land Joyce's Park and used mule-drawn railcars to bring visitors up the long climb from Main Avenue. Park admittance was free but there was a 5-cent fare to ride. In 1891 the Clinton Street Railway converted to electric power. The Park was enlarged and used year round with four pavilions providing shelter. Playgrounds were constructed, free movies were shown and regular dances drew in hundreds of visitors.

In 1913 the railway was again enlarged and the main pavilion renovated. Eagles began to nest in the park and from that point on Joyce's Park became known as Eagle Point Park. In the early 1920's cars were popular and the Railway Company was forced to build a roadway entrance. In 1925 the park was sold to the City of Clinton for \$22,500. In the late 1920's Leo Hannaher and the Park Board Commissioner Ward W. Cook led a plow and tractor and directed the path of "Serpentine Drive" for a cost of \$700. In 1930 a rustic shelter was built later to be known as "The Lodge".

The Great Depression struck in 1933 and the Park Commissioners took advantage of New Deal funds. These Federal Government funds employed families who had lost their only income. In 1935 it became known as the Works Progress Administration, or WPA, and was the biggest relief program in U.S. history. Local sponsors would provide 10 to 30% of project costs usually in land, machinery and supplies. The Federal Government paid workers according to local standards and in Clinton that amounted to \$15/week with a total of \$3 million going to beautify Eagle Point Park. Hundreds of people worked to improve the park while

8.5 million were employed nationally. The stone tower (castle, left), sunken gardens, footbridges, walls, trails and legendary '1,000 steps' were built. In 1934 WPA workman constructed the present lodge around the original shelter.



More artifacts of the Woodland culture dating to 200-600 B.C. were found during this period. From 1937 to 1939 the WPA funded the building of Riverview Stadium (now Ashford Field).



The WPA also employed artists. A visit to the DeWitt City Hall will provide you with an excellent example in the 1939 mural "Shucking Corn" (below) painted by artist John Bloom. Bloom studied under Grant Wood and his work can be found all over Iowa thanks to New Deal funding.

The New Deal's WPA was liquidated on June 30, 1943 as a



result of low unemployment due to the worker shortage of WW II. It provided not only income for stricken families but also a sense of pride, self respect, good work ethic and improved skill levels. Things we could use more of today.

Construction of Lock and Dam #13 began in 1938 and created a 4-mile wide pool that became the widest point on the Mississippi and was named "Lake Clinton" though it was never officially registered as such. In 1958 a parking lot and Lookout Point was built atop the 200-foot river bluff and easy access to vistas of the pool extending into Illinois.

The park grew with a purchase of 10-acres in 1951 and 34 more acres in 1961 containing Woodland Culture mounds dating back to 600-1200 A.D. was purchased. The US HWY 67 renovation took a portion of Eagle Point and the DOT replaced it with the 40-acre Holm property. It became the Eagle Point Petting Zoo and Nature Center and then Soaring Eagle Nature Center for a total of 205 acres in the park.

In 1959 the Lodge gained a concession stand and in 1967 was renovated again. The "Symphony of Lights" display began during the Holiday Season of 1997 and due to its success, The Lodge was improved for "winter-time" use. By 2000, several other upgrades were made with lighting and a public address (P.A.) system.

Clinton was named an 'Iowa Great Place' in 2007 largely due to Eagle Point Park. An 18-hole disc golf course and equestrian center has been added since then.

Eagle Point Park is a place to enjoy, respect and be maintained as a Great Iowa Place, thanks to the WPA.

Give the Friends Group A Try

by Jessica Steines, Interpretive Naturalist and FORC Liaison

Stacy Schroeder remembers coming to Hanson's Boat Landing as a child. She came with her family, often riding her bike or walking to the small store to buy some candy, just like many kids do today! Though the area is now called Rock Creek Marina and Campground and the small store has been replaced by a more modern facility named the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center.

Within the first year of opening the larger facility and all that it entails, the need for a volunteer group was obvious. So the Friends of Rock Creek (FORC) was created. Luckily, Ashford University was there to promote volunteering in the community to their students and held volunteer fairs. Fortunately for us, that is where Stacy heard of our need and decided "it might be fun to try" and now I look forward

to seeing her and the other Friends every fourth Tuesday of every month.

Not only is Stacy a part of the FORC, she is instrumental in helping with the annual Foundation Banquet. As the reigning Food Chair, she coordinates the meal for 150 people. As we all know, food is the

heart of an event and she puts a lot of heart into it. Stacy is always there to help out, no matter if it is face painting for the Holiday Jubilee, crafting with the Girl Scouts or her personal favorite, racing minnows with the Envirokids. Whenever she is at Rock Creek, Stacy enjoys "seeing how much fun the kids have, how they enjoy nature and learning about it."

Stacy wishes that people would realize that Rock Creek exists and knew of all of the things they can do at Rock Creek beside camp. "If you don't have your own equipment, many items are available so you can try new things outside. Depending on the season, you can rent canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, paddleboats, flat bottom boats, snowshoes, XC skis and ice skates."

I am so grateful that something that "might be fun to try" has turned into something that is fun to do for Stacy! With her assistance I am confident more people will discover what Rock Creek has to offer and generations to come will enjoy it as well.



Stacy racing minnows with the EnviroKids (see calendar of events).



Making apple juice at the Rock Creek Halloween celebration.

Modern Family?

by Jessica Steines, Interpretive Naturalist

Something unusual is occurring right in our backyard! There is a trio of nesting bald eagles (1 female, 2 male bond) located in the backwaters of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge near Lock and Dam 13, Fulton. Luckily people can have a glimpse into the unique bond of a trio first hand with the help of a nest cam ~ <http://stewardsumrr.org> (if the video is not up, please understand that technology has its blips and that it can be very difficult to maintain, like wearing chest waders to fix it. Also, donations are appreciated and needed!)

Here is how the unlikely bond occurred...it all started with a tragedy. In 2006, one mate died after flying into an electrical power line. The other mate abandoned the nest and the eggs. Subsequent years, a pair of eagles fledged several eaglets. Then in 2011, eggs were laid, but parents abandoned the nest. The tree collapsed in June, due to wind. In 2012, the nest was rebuilt in an old location, near the Lock and Dam. Two eggs were laid and eventually hatched, but the eaglets perished, because the young male (named Valor I) acted like he didn't know what to do by not incubating and feeding the young.

In 2013, the eagles chose a new nest location. Three adults were seen around the nest. Behavior indicated that Valor I

was replaced with Valor II. The pair successfully raised 2 eaglets. In 2014, vegetation

blocked the view of the nest so their life that year is unknown. In 2015, the eagles worked on two different locations, choosing the 2013 nest and fledging three eaglets.

Now in 2016, there is a new nest! And the drama doesn't stop there! In January, a pair of great horned owls checked out the eagles real estate and even copulated. But in early February, the eagles laid three eggs and in mid-march they all hatched and are doing well!

Some say you can tell the difference of the males by the eye color. Valor I has light yellow eyes where as Hope, Valor II has darker eyes. Both males have copulated with the female, so no one knows who the father is, but all three eagles share the responsibility of building the nest, incubating and feeding. Though you shouldn't compare human life with wildlife, it is fun to think of it as modern day family drama, Maury Povich style.



Modern Family: 1 female, 2 males & 3 eaglets.

Events Calendar - Hot Fun in the Summertime!

May

5th ~ Music in the Loft ~ 6:30 PM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Local talents will provide entertaining instrumental and vocal offerings of a wide variety of music. Participants with musical talents are invited to bring their instruments along for this "coffee house" style jam. Refreshments are available and the entire family is welcome. This is a free event although donations to support the center are welcomed.

7th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center

Open ~ 1-4 PM ~ The Nature Center will be open on Saturdays, through October. Volunteer Hosts are needed, especially in Spring and Fall.

14th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center

Open ~ 1-4 PM

21st ~ Eden Valley Nature Center

Open ~ 1-4 PM

21st ~ Riverside Jam ~ 2 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Local talents will provide entertaining instrumental and vocal offerings of a wide variety of music. Participants with musical talents are invited to bring their instruments along for this "coffee house" style jam. Refreshments are available and the entire family is welcome. This is a free event although donations to support the center are welcomed.

24th ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ The Friends is a group of citizens dedicated to improving the park and its facilities for visitors with the promotion of the site through volunteering and planning events. New members and guests always welcome.



Great Stone Face of Eden Valley

26th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Most Thursday evenings through October, there will be naturalist-guided eco cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon on the Mississippi. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot.

27th ~ Tomahawks and Atlatls ~ 7 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Try your hand at using these ancient tools. The Atlatl helps throw a spear with power. The tomahawk is a multi-tool with many uses from processing firewood to taking game.



May 27th - 30th ~ Memorial Day Weekend ~ Rock Creek ~ Join us for a fun-filled holiday weekend. Reserve campsites online at www.mycountyparks.com.

♦ **Saturday ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek**

28th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

28th ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ Starts at dusk (must be clear skies) in Sherman Park, at the north parking lot. Courtesy of the Quad Cities Astronomical Society, www.qcas.org.

June

2nd ~ Music in the Loft ~ 6:30 PM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Local talents will provide entertaining instrumental and vocal offerings of a wide variety of music. This is a free event although donations to support the center are welcomed.

2nd ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

2nd ~ Moonlight & Music ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ We'll drift along under the waxing Moon while local talents provide entertaining instrumental and vocal offerings of a wide variety of music.

3rd - 5th ~ Free Fishing Weekend ~ Iowa residents may fish and possess fish without a DNR fishing license.

3rd ~ Nocturnal Livin' ~ 6 PM ~ Walnut Grove ~ Nighttime is filled with animals who do all their livin' in the dark! Learn about Iowa's nocturnal animals and how they manage to survive in the dark! This is a free public program, children should be accompanied by an adult.

4th ~ Fishing Has No Boundaries Event ~ 8 AM-3 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Clinton County Conservation will be hosting the 3rd Annual Fishing Has No Boundaries event. This event will provide fishing opportunities for people with disabilities on and along the Mississippi River. We are in need of boat captain volunteers and fishing buddy volunteers! If you would like to be a part of this amazing event please contact Jill Schmidt at 563-847-7202.

4th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

4th ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 4:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Ride to the back valley. Adults must accompany children.



6th ~ Deadline for Registration for Summer Camps ~ There are 5 different camps for kids ages 6-14. See further in the calendar for details. Register at www.mycountyparks.com/county/Clinton/Events.aspx.

Kid Stuff with Morgan ~ Rock Creek ~ Morgan Oldsen has been hired as our host at the Nature Gallery. Please join her for lots of fun family activities this summer.

Thursdays

Starting June 2nd ~ A Nature Story ~ 10 AM ~ Every Thursday morning, there will be a presentation geared for children ages 3-5 with their guardians and siblings. All presentations feature a book and hands-on activities.

Fridays in June

Starting June 3rd ~ Critter Catching ~ 6 PM ~ Friday nights in June, Morgan will have nets to use to catch frogs, fish and insects in the water just outside of the Eco Center.

Fridays in July

Starting July 1st ~ Minnow Races ~ 6 PM ~ Friday nights in July, have an exciting time racing minnows!

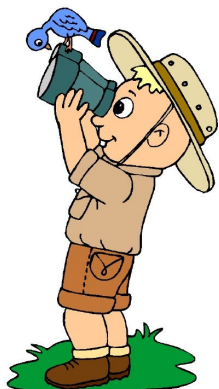
Saturday Mornings

Starting June 11th ~ Experience Nature ~ 9 AM ~ Every Saturday morning this summer, there will be a variety of nature activities with Morgan. Topics will range from animal presentations, using the paddle craft, geocaching and much more! Children must be accompanied by adult.

Sunday Mornings

Starting June 5th ~ Eco Center Fun ~ 9 AM ~ Every Sunday morning in the summer, join us at the Eco Tourism Center for a craft activity inspired by nature.

6th ~ Monday Morning Bird Club, Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Something new for bird enthusiasts! Join Mark Roberts for early morning excursions onto the Mississippi, throughout the summer, with a different mission. The cruises will idle through the backwaters looking for and recording bird species in the Rock Creek area. Call the Eco Tourism Center at 563-259-1876 to sign up!



7th - 8th ~ Build a Fishing Rod ~ 6 PM-9 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Local rod builder, Garry Land will be on hand to help you build your very own, unique fishing rod for \$60. Space is limited, register at www.mycountyparks.com

8th ~ Moving Like Animals ~ 11:15 AM & 1 PM ~ Camanche Public Library ~ Lets get moving! Clinton County Conservation is part of your library's summer reading program. A naturalist will bring live animals and animal artifacts to demonstrate how animals move.

7th & 11th ~ Iowa Hunter Safety Course ~ 6 PM-9 PM (Tues.) & 8 AM-4 PM (Sat.) ~ Clinton Izaak Walton ~ Sign up at <https://register-ed.com/programs/iowa?>

9th ~ Mighty Minnows ~ 10:30 AM ~ Wheatland Public Library ~ Have fun with minnows with a book, presentation and live minnows!

9th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

10th ~ Paddle the Wapsi ~ 9 AM-4 PM ~ Oxford Mills to Walnut Grove ~ Walnut Grove Park ~ We will meet at 8:45 AM near the boat ramp in Walnut Grove Park. Please be registered by 8:55 AM. We will stop for lunch at Massillon Park. We should reach Walnut Grove by 3:30 PM. This is a 10 mile stretch of the Wapsipinicon River. Travel times are dependent on paddler's abilities, length of shore breaks and river levels. **You MUST REGISTER by calling 563-259-1876 by noon on June 9th.**

10th - 12th ~ User Appreciation Weekend ~ Rock Creek ~ We want to thank the visitors to our park and will have some fun things planned this weekend.

- ♦ **Saturday ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM**
- ♦ **Saturday ~ Food Specials and Drawing for Prizes** ~ We have prize drawings and food specials throughout the day. Stop in the camp store and sign up to win.

11th ~ Fairy House Contest ~ 10 AM - Noon ~ Soaring Eagle ~ Bring your completed fairy house or gnome home by 10 AM for a chance to win fun prizes! Entry fee is \$5 per house. Enjoy games, crafts, great treats and grilled foods while judging is happening. Winners announced day of the event. More details including rules and registration form will be available on www.sencinfo.com.



11th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

11th ~ Saturday Night At the Movies ~ Dusk ~ Eden Valley ~ The campground at Eden Valley will show family movies on the big screen for campers/park visitors.

14th - 16th ~ Creature Camp #1 ~ 9:30 AM-2:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ *Children ages 6-8 years of age* will enjoy a camp filled with Iowa creatures! Learn about different wildlife that inhabit Iowa and their unique ways of life! Camp cost is \$45 and registration is required online. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for more details and to register your child. Registration deadline is June 6th.

16th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

17th ~ For Goodness Snakes ~ 6:30 PM @ Eden Valley & 8 PM @ Walnut Grove ~ Come to meet some of Iowa's resident snakes. Bring your camp chairs to sit as close or as far away as you like and cameras for photo ops.

17th - 19th ~ Father's Day Weekend ~ Rock Creek ~ Grab your family and spend some quality time camping.

♦ **Saturday ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM**

18th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

20th ~ Monday Morning Bird Club, Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Something new for bird enthusiasts!

21st - 23rd ~ Creature Camp #2 ~ 9:30 AM-2:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ *Children ages 6-8 years of age* will enjoy a camp filled with Iowa creatures! Learn about different wildlife that inhabit Iowa and their unique ways of life! Camp cost is \$45 and registration is required online. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for details and to register your child. Registration deadline is June 6th.



23rd ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

24th ~ Leaf Printing ~ 7 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Create your own leaf design to take home! Learn about different leaf shapes and how to identify some native Iowa trees by their leaves. Participants should bring with them a plain light colored t-shirt, bandana or pillowcase to create their own masterpiece. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

25th ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek

25th ~ Eden Valley Nature Center Open ~ 1-4 PM

25th ~ Hayrack Rides ~ 4:30 PM ~ Eden Valley ~ Ride to the back valley. Adults must accompany children.

25th ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ Starts at dusk (must be clear skies) in Sherman Park, at the north parking lot. Courtesy of the Quad Cities Astronomical Society, www.qcas.org.

28th - 30th ~ Child vs. Wild Camp ~ 9:30 AM-2:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ *Children ages 9-11 years of age* will take a walk on the wild side! Campers will enjoy challenging themselves with fun outdoor skills such as orienteering, archery and swimming while spending time on and around the Mississippi. Camp cost is \$45. Visit www.mycountyparks.com to register your child. Registration deadline is June 6th.

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28th ~ Peregrine Falcon Cruises ~ 10:30 AM ~ Swan Slough Boat Ramp, Camanche ~ Clinton is

home to several endangered peregrine falcon pairs. We will cruise around beaver Island to see the nests and adult and in hopes of glimpsing the young of the year taking the first practice flights! Swan slough directions: turn off S. Washington south at Park drive follow one block.



28th ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ New members and guests always welcome.

30th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

July

1st- 4th ~ Independence Day Weekend ~ Rock Creek ~ Grab your family and friends and camp with us this holiday weekend. Reservable campsites and cabins are available at www.mycountyparks.com/county/clinton.

- ♦ **Saturday ~ Early Bird Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ This will be our last Early Bird Cruise of the year as we switch to the Millin' Around schedule.

1st ~ Minnow Races ~ 6:30 PM @ Eden Valley & 8 PM @ Walnut Grove ~ Excitement racing minnows!

5th - 7th ~ Child vs. Wild Camp ~ 9:30 AM-2:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Children ages 9-11 years of age will take a walk on the wild side! Camp cost is \$45 and registration is required online. Visit www.mycountyparks.com to register your child. Registration deadline is June 6th.

7th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

9th ~ Garage Sale Weekend ~ 8 AM-Noon ~ Rock Creek ~ It's time to clean out the closets. All registered campers are invited to have a campsite garage sale. Please stop or call the camp store at 563-259-1876 to register your sale.

9th ~ Riverside Jam ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Local talents will provide entertaining instrumental and vocal offerings of a wide variety of music. Participants with musical talents are invited to bring their instruments along for this "coffee house" style jam.

9th ~ Millin' Around ~ 1-5 PM ~ Sawmill Museum ~ From July 9th to August 27th, enjoy a day of Millin' Around for free *thanks* to a sponsorship from the *Curtis-Armstrong Foundation*. Every Saturday, those who pre-register will tour three Gateway area attractions: Fulton's Dutch Windmill; Clinton's Sawmill Museum; and the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center with an Eco Cruise on the river. 80 people can register for the event, and you register by visiting www.thesawmillmuseum.org/milling-around. You will be directed to the Clinton Convention Visitors Bureau for official registration or call the Sawmill at 563-242-0343 for assistance in registering. All group sizes are welcome.



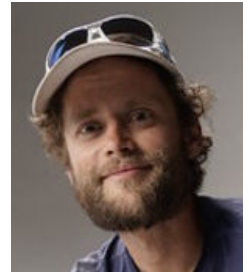
12th ~ Moving Like Animals ~ 10:30 AM ~ Wheatland Public Library ~ Let's get moving! A naturalist will bring live animals and artifacts to show how animals move.

14th ~ Moving Like Animals ~ 1 PM ~ Dewitt Community Center

14th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

14th ~ Bat Stream Hayride ~ 9 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Meet at the Eco Center to ride our hay wagon out to where the bats stream across the road towards their nightly feeding grounds on the backwaters of the Mississippi.

15th ~ Concert in the Park ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Join Iowa native William Borg Schmitt on the inaugural *Iowa's County Parks Tour*. Will is inspired as much by Thoreau as Guthrie; he is an exuberant young folk singer from rural Iowa. His songs exude a passion for life expressed through autobiographical reflection and nature based metaphor. He has hiked 4,000 miles along the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails. **Sign up for a special Eco Cruise starting at 5:30 PM featuring a performance by Will Borg Schmitt. As Will delights us with more music, we will putter backwaters. 563-259-1876 for a FREE seat.**



16th ~ Millin' Around ~ 1-5 PM ~ Sawmill Museum ~ Register at www.thesawmillmuseum.org/milling-around.

16th ~ Sprinkler Fun! ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ Beat the summer heat with old fashioned water sprinkler fun.

18th ~ Monday Morning Bird Club, Eco Cruise ~ 9 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Something new for bird enthusiasts! Call 563-259-1876 to sign up, FREE! Also Aug 8th & 22nd.

19th ~ Kanoe Kids Camp #5 ~ 9:30 AM-2:30 PM ~ Rock Creek, 20th-21st ~ 9:30 AM-Overnight ~ Wapsipinicon River ~ Children ages 12-14 years of age will explore by canoe! This three-day, one night canoe exploration will teach you the basics of paddling and take you down the Wapsipinicon River exploring sandbars along the way! Camp cost is \$45 and registration is required. Visit www.mycountyparks.com for more details to register. Deadline is June 6th.



21st ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

22nd - 24th ~ Christmas in July Weekend ~ Rock Creek

- ♦ **Friday ~ Decorate Your Campsite ~** Get yourself in the holiday spirit by decorating your campsite for Christmas in July. We will have site judging Saturday night with prizes awarded.

22nd ~ Turtle Talk ~ 6 PM ~ Walnut Grove ~ Come meet several different native Iowa turtles and learn about their unique characteristics that allow them to live in the heartland. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

23rd ~ Millin' Around ~ 1-5 PM ~ Sawmill Museum ~ Register at www.thesawmillmuseum.org/milling-around.

25th ~ Wapsi Paddle Trip II ~ 8:45 AM ~ Syracuse Wildlife Area Boat Ramp ~ We will take group photo at the ramp at 8:55 AM and shuttle to Walnut Grove Park. This trip takes us past high cut banks of glacial till and through fields of glacial erratic's. **You MUST REGISTER by calling 563-259-1876 by noon of July 22nd.**



The River Action Board of Directors has convened to select the 2016 Eddy Award honorees who exemplify excellence on the riverfront. Awards are given to individuals or organizations in the areas of Education, Arts, Design, Revitalization, RIVER Activity, Stewardship and Volunteerism who have gone against the current, as in an eddy, to get things done. We are happy to inform you that Mark Roberts, Education Coordinator, Clinton County Conservation, is being honored with an Education award for Naturalist-guided Cruises on the Mississippi River (Blue Heron Eco Cruises) at our 17th Annual Eddy Awards Presentations.

Thank you again for your continued dedication to the Mississippi River.

Kathy Wine, Executive Director, River Action

The award's design signifies swirling currents that go against the normal flow of the water.



Clinton County Area EnviroKids

Summer 2016 Programs - 3-5

(younger children accompanied by adults)

Explore the world with us from 10 AM-Noon on Saturdays this summer!

June 4th – Explore the great outdoors at the Izaak Walton League. Experience fun in the outdoors, canoeing, fishing and a hayride on the prairie and the wetlands.

June 11th – Clinton County Solid Waste Agency. Find out what happens to all the trash that you throw away as we tour the facility.

July 9th – Tour LyondellBasell to see how plastic is made, check out the lab, view the emergency vehicles, participate in hands-on experiments and enjoy pizza lunch.

July 16th – Join us at the Children's Discovery Center as we explore Marbles on the Move—Newton's Laws of Motion—how things roll, hit and drop.

July 30th – Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center (Rock Creek Marina). Paddle boats, canoes, kayaks, pond study and a cruise aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat!

Aug. 6th – The Sawmill Museum is where local history comes to life! Explore our new exhibits, and play and live like a lumberjack in our 1888 lumber camp.

Aug. 6th – Enjoy a baseball game with the Clinton LumberKings on "Going Green" night on Saturday evening at the ballpark, with special recognition of EnviroKids at 6 PM, admission starts at 5 PM.

Aug. 13th – Flowers-Forest-Fauna Fun Day at the Bickelhaupt Arboretum. Enjoy a fun-filled nature scavenger hunt. Create an art piece from nature.

Sign-up and questions, Judie Petersen – 563-357-6932.

26th ~ Paddle The Wapsi III ~ 9 AM - Noon ~ Sherman Park ~ You will need to be checked in by 8:55 before shuttling to Syracuse Wildlife Area. We'll pass an eagle's nest and enjoy the beaches along the way. We will shuttle drivers back to Syracuse WA. *You must register for this event by calling 563-259-1876 by noon on July 22nd.*

26th ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ New members and guests always welcome

27th ~ Mighty Minnows ~ 11:15 AM & 1 PM ~ Camanche Public Library ~ Have fun with minnows with a book, presentation and live minnows!

28th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

28th ~ Moonlight & Music ~ 8:30 PM ~ Rock Creek ~ We'll drift along under the waxing Moon while local talents provide entertaining instrumental and vocal offerings of a wide variety of music.



30th ~ EnviroKids ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek ~ Paddle boats, canoes, kayaks, pond study and a cruise aboard the Blue Heron pontoon boat! Complete the fun with s'mores around a campfire. Adults are welcome to accompany children with water events. Call Judie Petersen at 563-357-6932. For activities around the county lower right.

30th ~ Millin' Around ~ 1-5 PM ~ Sawmill Museum ~ Register at www.thesawmillmuseum.org/milling-around. Also August 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th.

30th ~ Jens-Wendt Observatory Open House ~ Dusk ~ Sherman Park ~ Starts at dusk (must be clear skies) in Sherman Park, at the north parking lot. Courtesy of the Quad Cities Astronomical Society, www.qcas.org

31st - August 2nd ~ High School Backpackers Camp ~ Yellow River State Forest ~ Come for an Iowa adventure! This beautiful northeast Iowa area is a great place for a wilderness experience close to home. We will meet at 10 AM Sunday morning at Rock Creek, then travel to Yellow River SF to pack-in and set-up camp for the night. The next day we will do some day-packing, then spend one more night under the stars and pack out in the morning to return to Rock Creek at 6 PM Tuesday. All packs, tents, basic meals and camp stoves will be supplied. There are only 10 spots available for only \$45 for kids age 15 - 18. For more information/register please visit www.mycountyparks.com



Save the Date

August ~ Sunset & Millin' Around Cruises continue.

August 8th & 22nd ~ Monday Morning Bird Club

August 19th-21st ~ Lower Wapsi River Clean-up Project ~ Sherman Park ~ For information, www.lwrcp.org.

September 10th ~ Youth Outdoor Skills Day

October 8th ~ Clinton Co. Pheasants Forever Banquet

Clinton County Conservation
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www.clintoncounty-ia.gov
www.mycountyparks.com

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CLINTON COUNTY CONSERVATION

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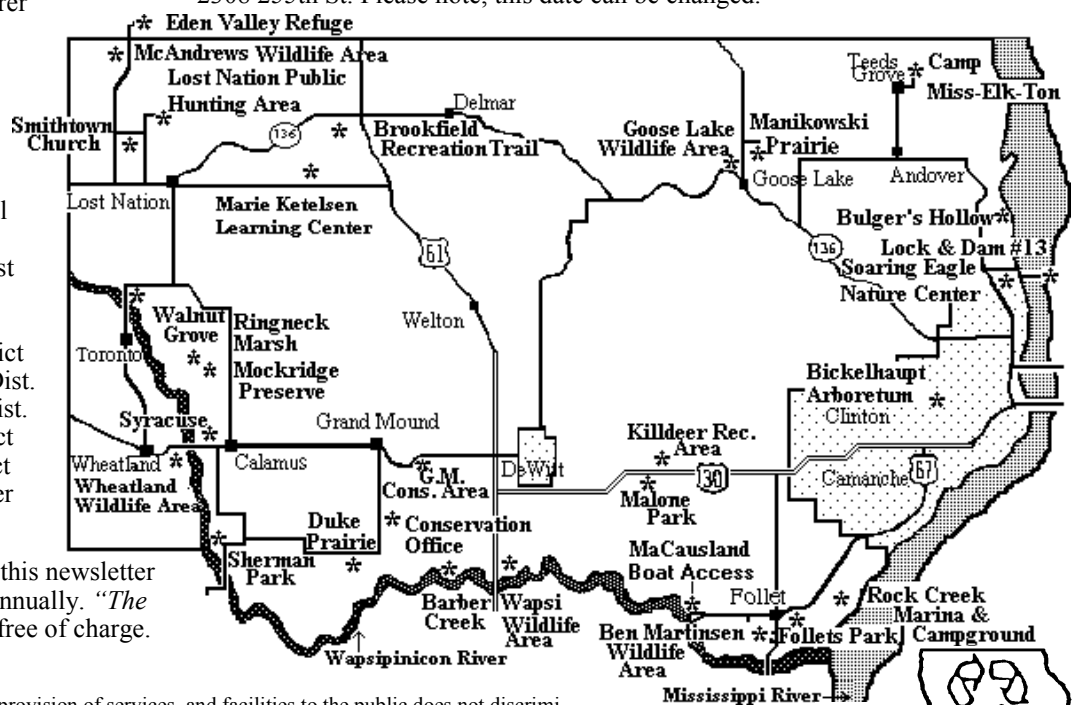
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MAILING LIST

Clinton County addresses can receive this newsletter at home, free. Others are charged \$5 annually. "The Heron" is on our website or emailed, free of charge.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Clinton County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The Board meets the second Tuesday the month, at 6 PM, in the Conservation Office, located 1 mile south of Grand Mound at 2308 255th St. Please note, this date can be changed.



The Clinton County Conservation Board in the provision of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subject to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Clinton C.C.B. or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.



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